



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Number: 200200538

Date: May 12, 2006

Comments Due: June 13, 2006

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the Sheldon Road/State Route 99 Interchange, frontage road alignment, and new roads expansion project, which would result in the permanent loss of 0.66 acres and 0.36 acres of direct temporary impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands adjacent to Laguna Creek. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

AUTHORITY: This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

APPLICANT: City of Elk Grove
Robert Lee
8400 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, California 95758
916-478-2227

LOCATION: The project site is located in Elk Grove in Sections 23 and 26, Township 7 North, Range 5 East, MDB&M, Sacramento County, California, and can be seen on the Florin USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Elk Grove in coordination with Sacramento County, City of Sacramento, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing to reconstruct and expand the Sheldon Road/State Route 99 interchange, frontage road alignments, and access ramp alignments. The Federal Highway Administration is providing funding for this project and will serve as the Lead Federal Agency.

Based on the information provided, the overall project purpose is to increase the level of service at the interchange to meet current and near future traffic needs. The applicant believes there is a need to expand the existing interchange and re-route local roadways in order to accommodate increased traffic demands generated by existing development and planned growth in the area. The attached drawings provide project location, road alignment information, and proposed project impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands.

The project as proposed would expand and replace the existing Sheldon Road/State Route 99 interchange, frontage road alignments, access ramps, and construction of new roadways. The two lane Sheldon Road over crossing would be replaced with a nine lane over crossing. The west bound over crossing would have three through lanes and two left turn lanes. The eastbound

direction would have three through lanes and one right turn lane. Sheldon Road would be widened to provide three through lanes in each direction from Lewis Stein Road to Power Inn Road.

East Stockton Boulevard would be relocated 919 feet east of its existing intersection with Sheldon Road. West Stockton Boulevard within the northwest portion of the project area would remain intact and its intersection with Sheldon Road would align with the southbound ramp intersection. The existing 525-foot-long sound wall located within the southwest portion of the project area will need to be reconstructed. A 60-inch storm water drainage pipe would be installed parallel to the westside of the freeway from the Whitehouse Creek culvert under State Route 99 and West Stockton Boulevard and outfall into Laguna Creek. The culvert would extend 700 feet and outfall above the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) on the bank of Laguna Creek. Rock slope protection will be placed around the outfall pipe below the OHWM. This culvert and storm drain pipe system would be placed along side an existing 60-inch culvert pipe which outfalls into Laguna Creek.

The project as proposed would also expand the existing interchange to provide:

- A two-lane southbound loop off-ramp in the southwest area of proposed project.
- A 1300-foot auxiliary lane in advance of southbound loop off-ramp.
- A diagonal southbound on-ramp in the southwest area of the proposed project.
- A two-lane northbound loop on-ramp with a mixed flow lane and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in the southeast portion of the project area.
- A diagonal northbound off-ramp in the southeast portion of the project area.
- A diagonal northbound on-ramp with two mixed flow lanes and one HOV lane in the northeast section of the project area.

The proposed project foot print would result in a loss of 0.66 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands from the placement of 5,073 cubic yards of fill material into these features. The project as proposed would also have direct temporary impacts to 0.36 acres of waters, including wetlands. The proposed project will require 62,781 cubic yards of fill material to construct the new ramps and approaches. The applicant has identified the southeast area of the project site as a potential site for storage of construction equipment and materials. The northeast area of the project area has been identified as a potential staging area for construction trailers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. There are approximately **2.73** acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, within the project area, including 1.392 acres of seasonal wetlands, 1.031 acres of vernal pools, and 0.307 acres of intermittent drainage. The project area and surrounding land uses include rural residential, fallow agriculture fields, residential subdivisions, commercial properties, and the San Joaquin Cemetery. The fallow agricultural fields provide foraging habitat for numerous wildlife species. The seasonal wetlands, vernal pools, and waters on site provide foraging habitat for a variety of resident and migratory wildlife species.

Alternatives. The applicant initially provided information about two project alternatives, both of which would permanently and temporarily impact approximately 1.418 acres of water, including wetlands. The applicant in consultation with the Corps later modified their preferred alternative to further avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. The applicant was able to further avoid impacts to waters by removing the Auberry Drive extension and roundabout, as well as replacing the proposed concrete box culvert with a pile supported three-span slab bridge. These modifications reduced the amount of permanent and temporary impacts to vernal pools and seasonal wetlands to 1.02 acres.

Additional information concerning project alternatives may be available from the applicant or their agent. Other alternatives may develop during the review process for this permit application. All reasonable project alternatives, in particular those which may be less damaging to the aquatic environment, will be considered.

Mitigation. The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The applicant has not proposed any mitigation for the proposed impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands at this time.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS: Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (**CRWQCB**) is required for this project. The applicant has indicated they have not applied for certification.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Caltrans initiated consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for two historic-era ranch sites and the San Joaquin Cemetery. The State Historic Preservation Officer made a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this undertaking."

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed activity may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. The Federal Highway Administration acting as the lead federal agency initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on February 8, 2006.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply

and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Public Notice 200200538, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before June 13, 2006:

Paul Maniccia, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Sacramento Office
1325 J Street, Room 1480
Sacramento, California 95814-2922
Email: Paul.M.Maniccia@usace.army.mil

The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects. Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or the Corps' project manager Paul Maniccia, 916-557-6704, Paul.M.Maniccia@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 8 drawings